

Melanoma Differentiation Associated

Gene - 7 Promoter and Uses Thereof

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 The present invention provides for an isolated *Mda-7* promoter
capable of directing transcription of a heterologous coding
sequence positioned downstream therefrom, wherein the promoter is
selected from the group consisting of: (a) a promoter comprising
the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 ; (b) a promoter
10 comprising a nucleotide sequence functionally equivalent to the
nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1; and (c) a promoter
comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to a sequence
complementary to the promoter of (a) or (b) in a Southern
hybridization reaction performed under stringent conditions. The
invention provides for a host cell comprising the recombinant
15 expression construct as described herein. The invention provides
for a method for expressing foreign DNA in a host cell comprising:
introducing into the host cell a gene transfer vector comprising an
Mda-7 promoter nucleotide sequence operably linked to a foreign DNA
encoding a desired polypeptide or RNA, wherein said foreign DNA is
20 expressed. The invention further provides for a method for
treating cancer in a subject suffering therefrom which comprises
administering to the subject an effective amount of a
pharmaceutical composition which comprises a recombinant expression
construct comprising: (a) a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a
25 selected polypeptide; and (b) an *Mda-7* promoter nucleotide sequence
operably linked to the nucleic acid molecule of element (a),
wherein the coding sequence will be transcribed and translated when
in a host cell to produce the selected polypeptide, and the *Mda-7*
promoter is heterologous to the coding sequence and a
30 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.